

Nuclear Reactor

- Owned by Armour Research Foundation (ARF)
- Built in 1955
- Began operation June 28, 1956
- Dismantled 1977-1978.

The Armour Research Foundation nuclear reactor was built by North American Aviation, "... the first nuclear reactor for private industrial research....for nuclear research in the development of non-military, or peacetime applications of atomic energy."

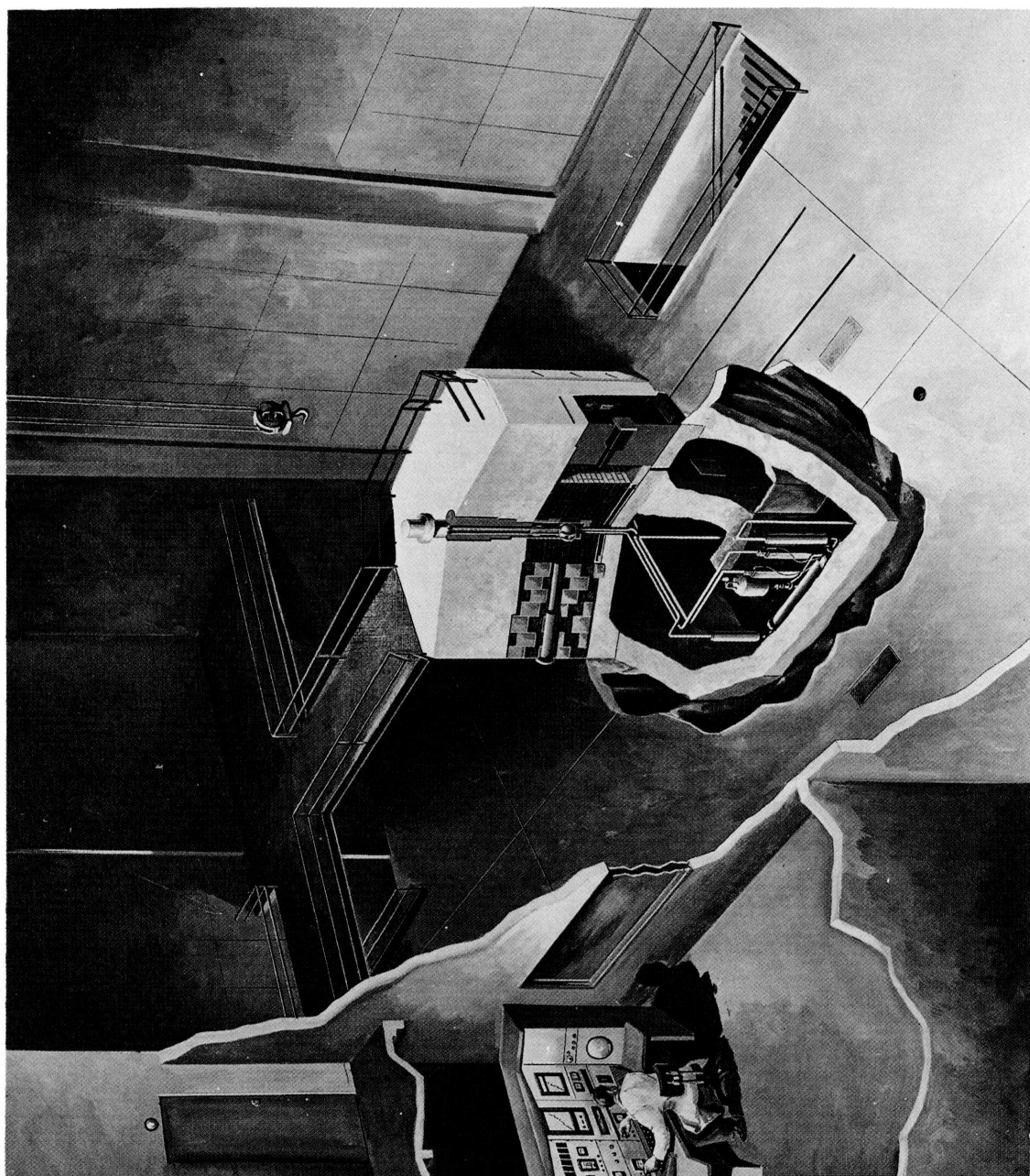
See 1998.199/Box B-1/Folder Nuclear Reactor for good images of the model, the drawings, and the reactor in situ. Men shown in one photo may be Robert Loftness and Harry Pearlman.

The reactor was located in a building designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe for ARF (building opened in 1955). The building was originally known as the Physics and Electrical Engineering Research Building (PER), and was subsequently one of several IIT Research Institute buildings (after the ARF name change to IITRI). The building was later owned and used by Institute of Gas Technology at which point it was commonly known as "IGT South". It is currently (as of 2014) owned by Illinois Tech and is known as "3424 South" for its address at 3424 S. State St.

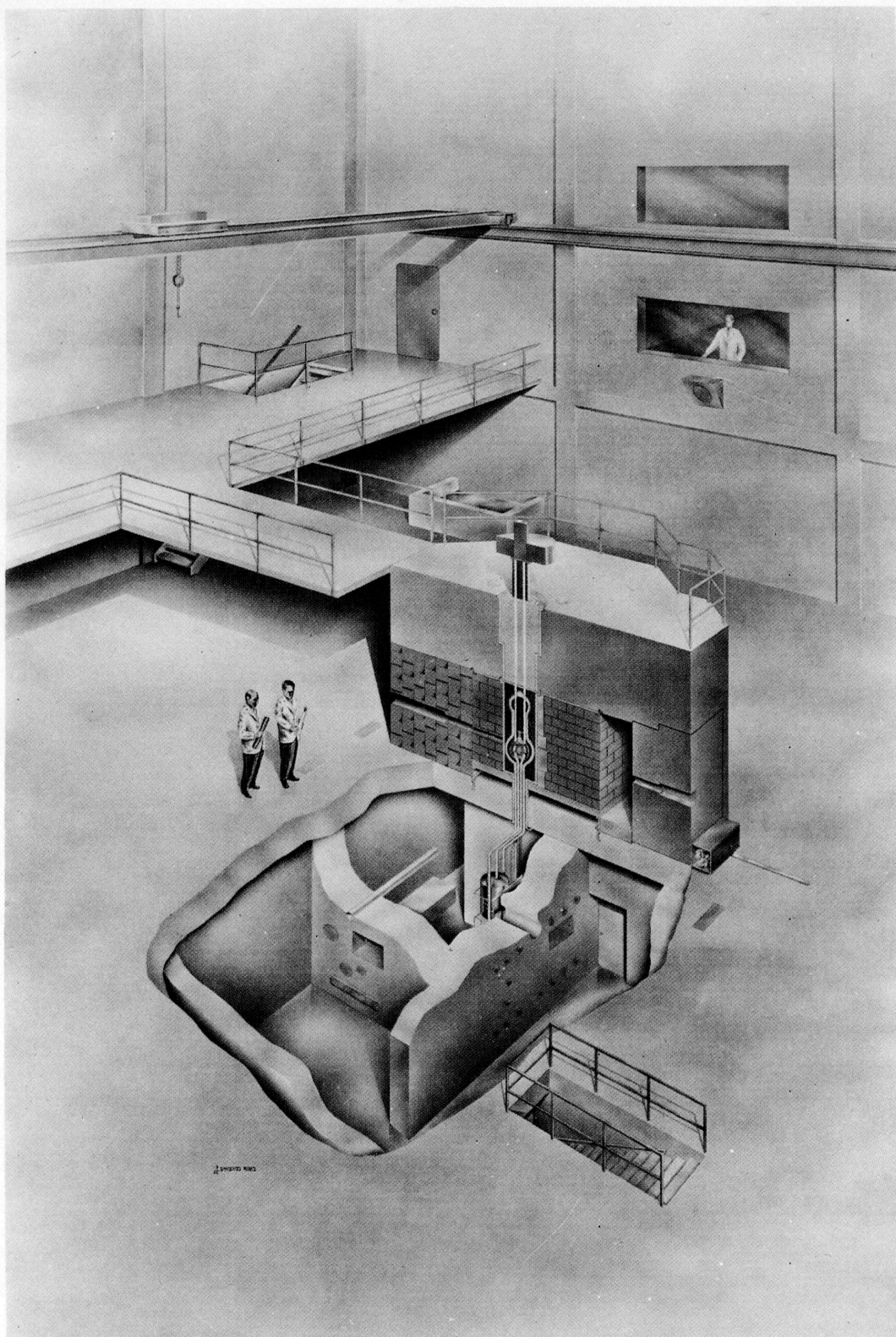
The reactor is documented in several collections in IIT Archives including any or all of the following:

Id	Name	Details	Description
1998.081	Films Collection: ARF-Space	1961	WBKB TV Chicago
1998.087	Film: Nuclear Reactor	1956	Illinois Institute of Technology
1998.089	Armour Research Foundation	1956	Armour Research Foundation
1998.099	Films Collection	1960s	Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago)
1998.130	Non-Serial Publications	ca. 1940- present	Illinois Institute of Technology
1998.192/01	ARF Photos -Box 1	1951-1964 and undated	Armour Research Foundation
1998.192/05	ARF Photos -Box 5	1951-1964 and undated	Armour Research Foundation
1998.199/003	Box B-1		
1998.199/006	Box B-4		
1998.199/022	Box I-3		
1998.199/025	Box L		
1998.266	35 mm slides - Illinois Tech	Ca. 1955 - ca. 1960	Technology News (IIT student newspaper)
1998.276	Armour Research Foundation Collection	1951-1964 and undated	Armour Research Foundation
2010.012	IIT Research Institute Records	1936-1999	IIT Research Institute

1998.199/Box B-1/Nuclear Reactor



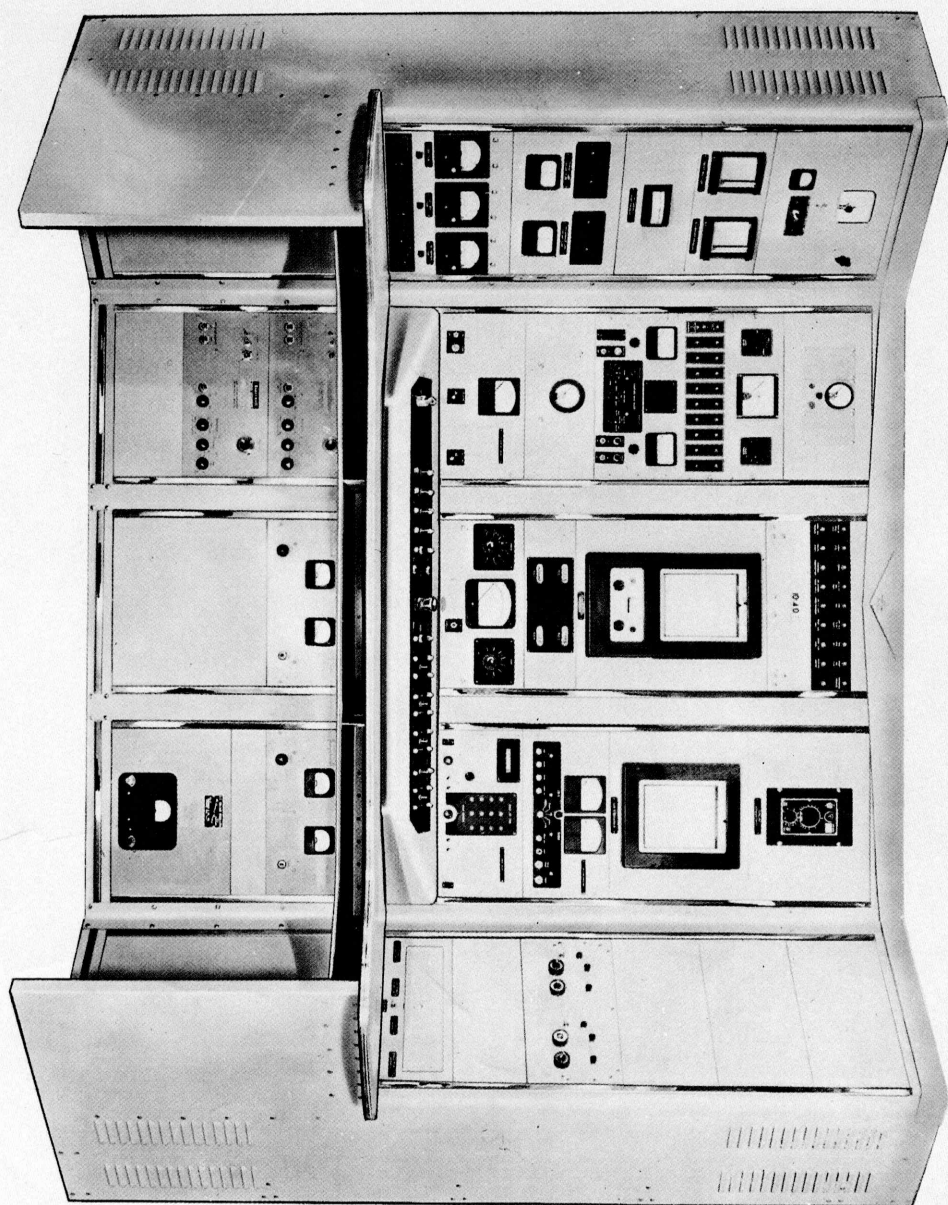
2018



8131

1000 1000 / B - B 1 / M 2 B 5

8103-



↑
UP

Maybe
Robert Loftis

Maybe
Harry Polkman



1/18/67

This release probably describes the
attached image, but they were not
found together.

C. B. Buck
University of Arkansas

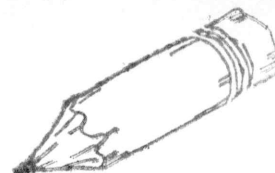
N-22A



NORTH AMERICAN AVIATION, INC.
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
LOS ANGELES 45, CALIFORNIA

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY MARCH 9, 1955.
10 A.M. Central Standard Time
11 A.M. Eastern Standard Time
8 A.M. Pacific Standard Time

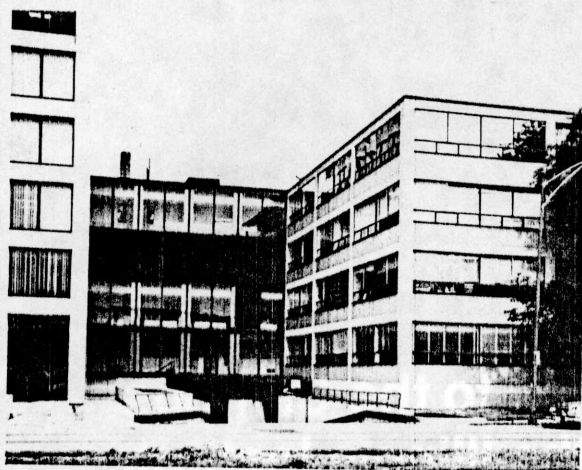
North American Aviation scientists, Dr. Robert Loftness, left, and Dr. Harry Pearlman, discuss a model of the first nuclear reactor for private industrial research which the Armour Research Foundation plans to operate in Chicago. Designed by North American's Nuclear Engineering and Manufacturing Department, the new reactor is scheduled to be used by Armour at the Foundation's facilities on the Illinois Institute of Technology campus for nuclear research in the development of non-military, or peacetime applications of atomic energy. North American Aviation has been awarded the contract to build the reactor.



Press Releases in IIT Archives about the ARF Nuclear Reactor (AKA Atomic Reactor)

Press releases are Acc. No. 1998.149

DATE	PRESS RELEASE TITLE
9/21/1954	First nuclear reactor for industrial research will be established at ARF
11/1954	ARF to build \$1 million Electrical Engineering laboratory and nuclear reactor building
1/1955	Seven companies participate in ARF's nuclear reactor research program
3/1955	Nuclear reactor press conference
6/9/1955	Construction to begin on building housing nation's first private nuclear reactor
6/1955	Nuclear Reactor groundbreaking
8/1955	Installation of the nuclear reactor in the building will begin
9/26/1955	Dangers of Atomic Reactor
10/1955	Robert A. Noland will talk on "Welding Problems in Nuclear Reactors"
12/1955	Progress in the generation of electricity with nuclear reactors will be pointed up
05/1956	The world's first private nuclear reactor for industrial research was dedicated
06/25/1956	Nuclear reactor to be placed in operation June 28
08/1956	Hydraulic application in the design and operation of nuclear reactors will be discussed
09/1956	World's first nuclear reactor for industrial research will highlight the Trade Fair
11/1956	Uruguay's atomic energy chief and other scientists inspect ARF's nuclear reactor
11/1956	Ray J. Van Thyne named supervisor of reactor metallurgy at ARF
1/1959	ARF receives approval to boost power level of nuclear reactor to 100,000 watts
2/1960	IIT receives two grants from Reactor Division of US Atomic Energy Commission
6/1962	Atomic Energy Commission grant helps IIT to study possible nuclear reactor problems

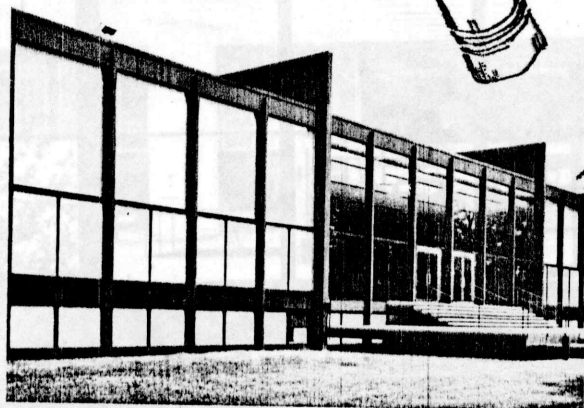


10e South Building

Formerly Armour Research Foundation, IIT Research Institute Physics and Electrical Engineering Research Building (PER Building).

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe; Naess and Murphy Associates, associated architects and engineers; Paschen Contractors, Inc., foundations. 1955 (opened July 1955 as part of IITRI). Intended for and used as research facility. Housed Univac 1105 computer (not extant), first industrial nuclear reactor in U.S. (dismantled in 1977/78), IIT's Institute for Psychological Services (now in Farr Hall).

Building given to IIT by IITRI in 1976 and purchased by IGT from IIT in April 1976.



11 S. R. Crown Hall

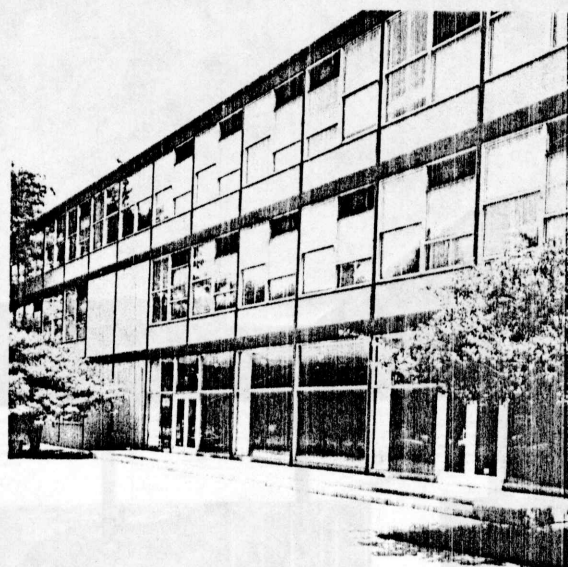
3360 South State Street

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe; Pace Associates and C. F. Murphy Associates, associated architects; Dahl Stedman Company, general contractor. 1950-56. Dedication 30 April 1956. Intended for the Department of Architecture alone with offices

in basement. Now houses the College of Architecture, Planning, and Design; with the Institute of Design in the basement. Internal changes include the enlargement of the office core to the south (oak wall moved), lockers installed, upper windows originally $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick replaced by $\frac{5}{16}$ " glass in 1975. Original ceiling lights of 4-tube fluorescents with grid screen were replaced by high-output fluorescents in 1975. Air conditioning was installed May 1986.

Exterior changes include security lights. The steel was most recently painted in May 1986, the south stairs and the doors most recently refurbished in June 1986. At the time of construction, the building was defined under city building code as a warehouse and, officially, had to serve as such by housing a lift. S. R. Crown was the brother of Henry Crown, former IIT trustee and chairman and co-founder of Material Service Corporation.

Landscaping by Alfred Caldwell.



12 Siegel Hall

3301 South Dearborn

Formerly Lewis Building.

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe; Pace Associates, associated architects; Erik A. Borg, contractor. 1956-57 (Drawings by Mies dated 1 March 1946 and designated "Lewis Building"). Intended for and used as electrical engineering and physics teaching facility. Named for David T. Siegel, IIT Trustee and founder of Ohmite Manufacturing Company.

13 Wishnick Hall

3255 South Dearborn

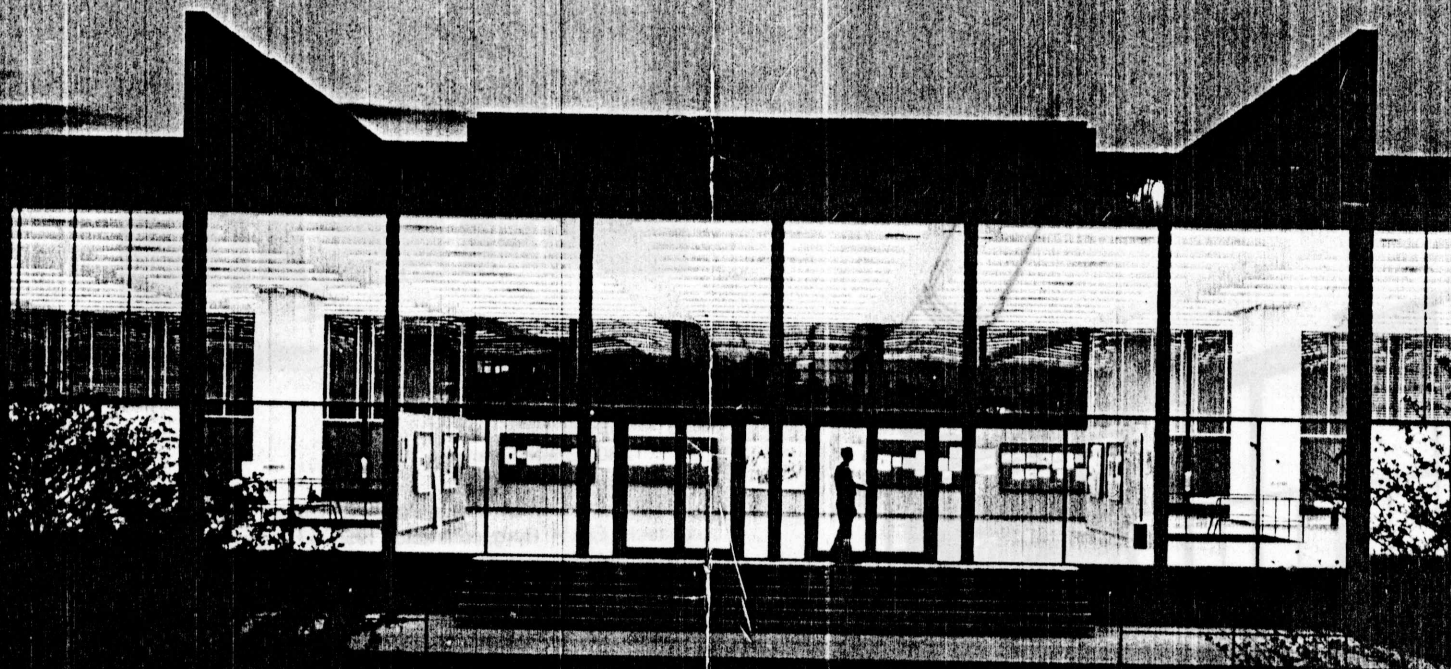
Formerly Chemistry Building.

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe; Alfred S. Alschuler and R. N. Friedman, associated architects. 1945-46.

Major external rehabilitation 1984-85 including replacement of doors, tuckpointing.

see over for source

Guide to the Campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology



By Rolf Achilles and Charlotte Myhrum

1956

- a. March - ground broken for third AAR Building
- b. Ice Laboratory, an early campus building on the site of Siegel Hall, razed
- c. Main Building remodeled for Technical Drawing
- d. May - Crown Hall dedicated to Mr. S. R. Crown, brother of Trustee Henry Crown
- e. June - PER Building completed, ^{ARF}~~ITPR~~ Peactor went into operation
- f. June - ground broken for Siegel Hall
- g. WIIT established
- h. land acquisition slow

1957

- a. First Master of Science in Engineering Graphics in the U.S. awarded by Technical Drawing Department
- b. Department of Business and Economics granted its first Ph.D
- c. Siegel Hall completed
- d. July - AAR Engineering lab (third building) completed at 31st and Federal
- e. Metals Building addition (^{ARF}~~ITPR~~) started

1958

- a. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe retired
- b. April - Siegel Hall dedicated to David T. Siegel, Trustee & responsible for establishment of Ohmite Precision Measurements Laboratory
- c. Heating Plant addition completed
- d. July- Metals Building addition (^{ARF}~~ITPR~~) completed
- e. Ground broken by Phi Kappa Sigma for new house at 31st and Wabash
- f. Plans drawn for Grover M. Hermann Hall
- g. Illinois Tech Commuters Association founded

1960

Source: 2001.32
1 Chronological
ca. 1963

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

35 WEST 33RD STREET TECHNOLOGY CENTER CHICAGO 16, ILLINOIS

Director of Public Relations — Stewart S. Howe

Day phones:

Illinois Institute of Technology — CALumet 5-9600, Ext. 317

Armour Research Foundation of

Illinois Institute of Technology — CALumet 5-9600, Ext. 318

Night phone:

University 4-4677

FOR RELEASE:

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 1956

AFTER 10:30 A.M. CDT

FIRST NUCLEAR REACTOR BUILT FOR PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH BEGINS OPERATION

TELEVISION NEWS RELEASE

40 Ft. - 1 min., 7 sec.

16 mm. B&W, Silent

SCENE I -- Men Approaching reactor

5 Ft. 6 Fr.
0 1/2 Secs.

Peacetime use of the atom was stimulated today, as the nation's first nuclear reactor built for private industrial research went into operation on the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

SCENE II - Men inserting reactor plug

4 Ft. 12 Fr.,
7 Secs.

Designed and built by Atomics International, a division of North American Aviation, for the Armour Research Foundation, the 'solution-type' reactor is intended solely for peacetime use by industry.

SCENE III - Closeup of reactor plug

7 Ft. 16 Fr.
12 Secs.

SCENE IV - View of model

5 Ft. 17 Fr.
9 Secs.

Illustrated here by a model, the new reactor provides an on-the-spot source of high-energy gamma rays and neutrons.

FIRST NUCLEAR REACTOR BUILT FOR PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH BEGINS OPERATION

Television News Release

SCENE V -- Closeup of model
control room

3 Ft. 29 Fr.
5 3/4 Secs.

Short-lived radioisotopes,
useful in medical, industrial
and scientific research will
be produced.

SCENE VI - Reactor core
(model)

6 Ft. 4 Fr.
10 Secs.

Atomic fission, the 'splitting'
of atoms which produces
radioactivity and neutrons,
takes place in the reactor core,
a steel sphere one foot in
diameter.

SCENE VII - Man at door of reactor

4 Ft. 9 Fr.
7 Secs.

The research reactor will be
used in many fields, including
biology, petroleum technology,
metallurgy, electronics, textiles
and chemistry. It opens an
entirely new field in industrial
research and development.

SCENE VIII - Man at controls

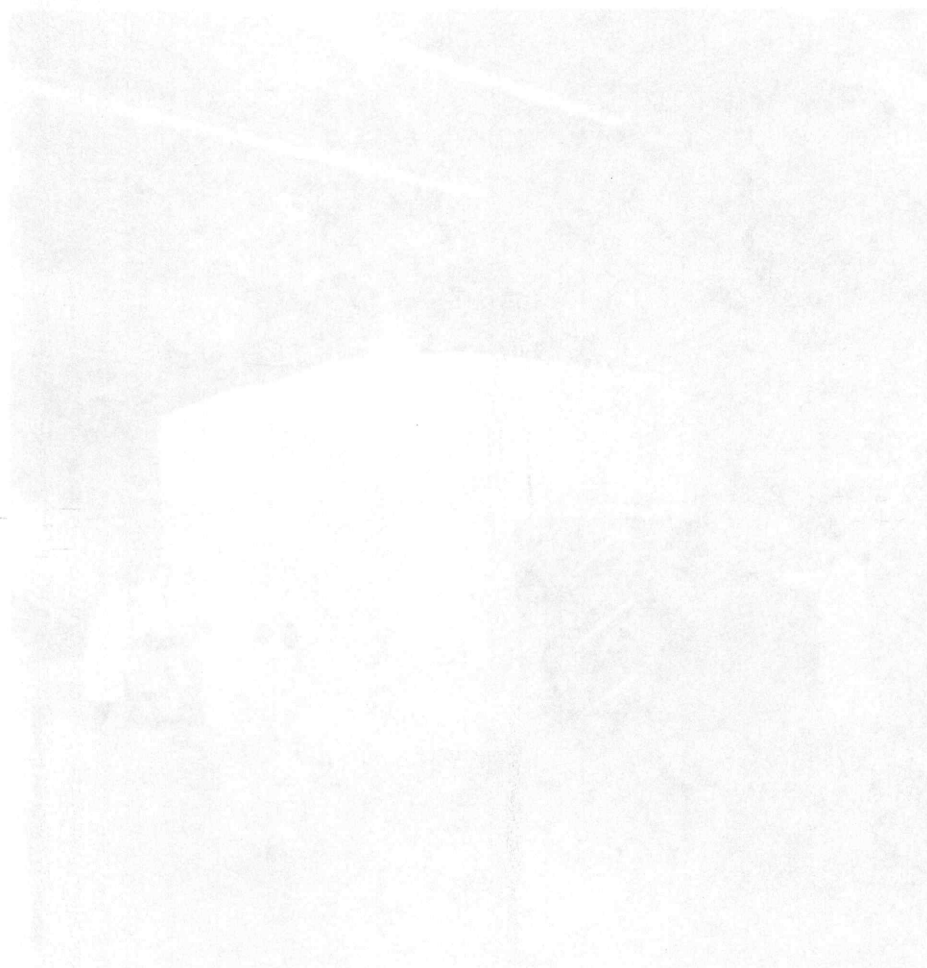
3 Ft. 32 Fr.
6 1/2 Secs.

Note: as of 12/22/99, there are
4 film reels (presumably 4 copies of
the same film) in the Archives
which accompany this press
release. The press release was
found w/ one of the films.

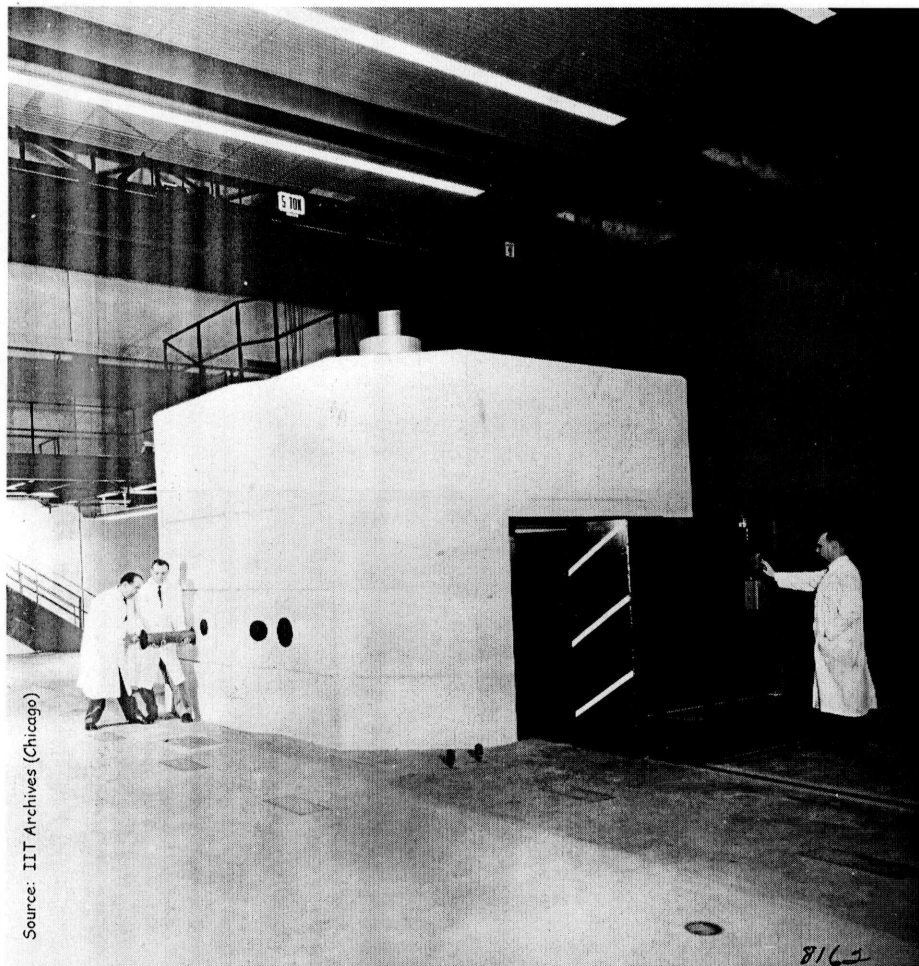
Films titled Armour Reactor
or
Armour Foundation Model Reactor
are on 3" diameter reels.



On June 28, 1956 IIT announced the inauguration of the Armour Research Foundation's nuclear reactor, "the first nuclear reactor built for private industrial research." The "solution-type" reactor," it added, "is intended solely for peacetime use by industry."



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"first nuclear reactor built for private industrial research." The
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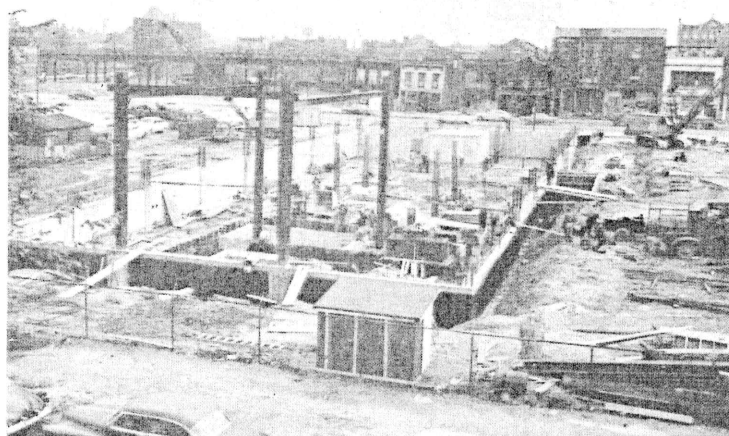
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The nation's first nuclear reactor to be directed specifically toward industrial research being constructed at Armour Research Foundation of Illinois Institute of Technology is nearing completion and it is expected that the reactor will be in operation by March, 1956.

With industrial participation in nuclear energy encouraged by the constructive revision of the Atomic Energy act, the nuclear reactor promises to be a necessary, modern tool for research into almost all industrial fields.

The reactor installation is designed for use in almost every field of industrial research. There is virtually no branch of technology in which neutrons and gamma rays will fail to make a contribution.

With several atomic power plants now under construction in this country and with a contemplated spread of research reactors similar to that at ARF, atomic energy has begun to justify its much-heralded claim as a boon to mankind. Dr. Richard F. Humphreys, manager of the physics research department at ARF in charge of the ARF nuclear reactor project, recently stated.



Workmen hasten construction on the nation's first nuclear reactor to be directed toward industrial research being built by Armour Research Foundation of Illinois Institute of Technology. It is expected that the reactor will be in operation by March, 1956.

Dr. Joseph C. Boyce Appointed New IIT Vice President, Dean

Dr. Joseph C. Boyce, associate director of Argonne National laboratory, has been appointed vice president of academic affairs and dean of the graduate school of Illinois Tech,

dinner, making it especially convenient for those alumni from around the country planning to attend the reunion dinner on May 4 to come to the campus one day earlier and participate in this program.

Discuss Techniques

Coccia led the group in a discussion of techniques and past practices for organized class programs and the discussion of potential speakers which covered both the national and international level.

It also was brought out that attendance has reached such proportions — in 1955 the attendance almost reached the maximum in excess of 700 — that pre-paid, advance reservations are a necessity for efficient handling of dinner arrangements.

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Dr. W. A. Lewis, formerly dean of the graduate school, has accepted an appointment to the chair in Electric Power Systems Engineering that has been established in the department of electrical engineering.

Before joining Illinois Tech, Boyce was responsible for the Argonne laboratory's relations with Midwest colleges, universities, and non-profit research institutions which participate with the Atomic Energy commission in a program directed toward the continued progress of atomic energy research and development.

Professor Reingold Publishes 2nd Book

Dr. Haim Reingold, professor of mathematics and department chairman, is co-author of a

Give Certificate For Completion Of New Course

Certificates were presented Oct. 25 at the Union Club to the first class fully completing a course of study for the Insurance Institute of America, Inc. under the direction of Illinois Institute of Technology.

Certificates were presented by Prof. John J. Ahern '35, and Dean Stanton '24, spoke of the value of education.

This course of study, currently in the field of insurance, is under the direction of the Evening Division of Tech and prepares candidates for the Life, Property and Casualty writers and the Insurance Institute examinations.

It is another one of the specialized programs instituted by Illinois Tech as a service to the industry. The course of study is carried on at downtown locations, in view of the employment of those in the program.

Appoint Multi-L.A. Scholars Committee

(continued from page 1)

Scholarship program established by the Illinois Institute of Technology and the Association of Directors of the Illinois Alumni Association provide there be made available annually, to each accredited alumni club of the association one full tuition, free scholarship. These scholarships will be awarded to the successful candidates in the particular alumni association. The scholarships are for a course of study in either the College of Engineering or the College of Liberal Studies.

Set Christmas Dinner

Class Chairmen Set 1956 Alumni Reunion Dinner for May

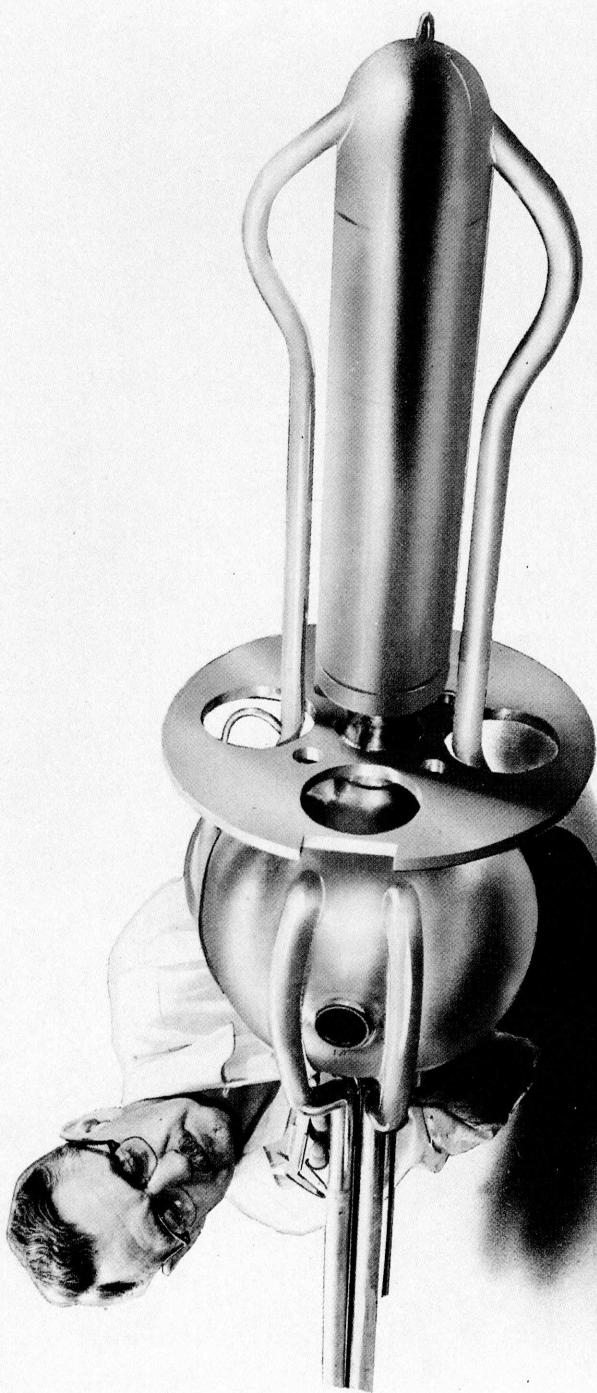
(continued from page 1)

reunion chairmen of the five-year classes from that of 1901, celebrating its 55th anniversary in May, 1956, to the class of 1951, planning its first five-year reunion.

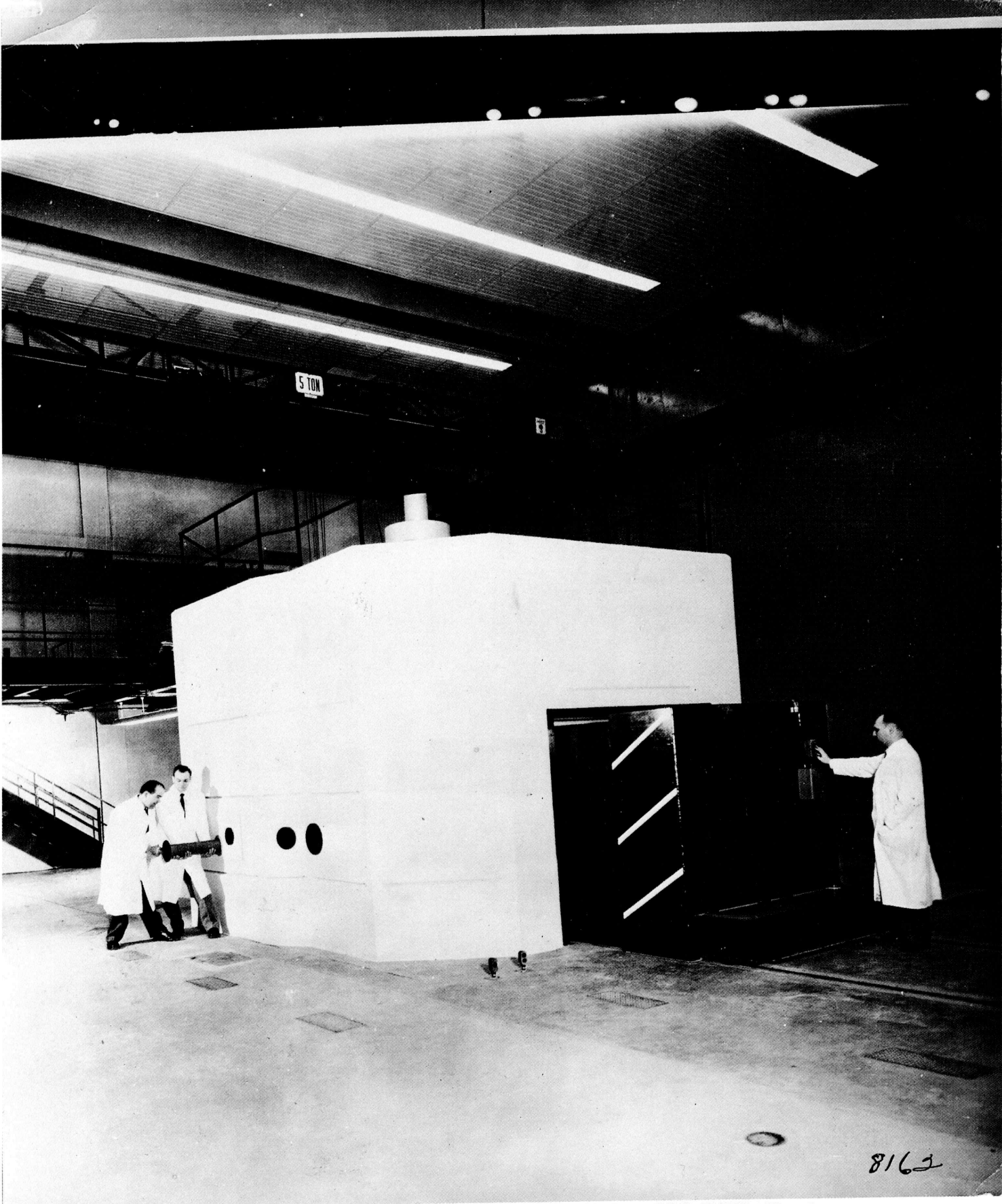
On Campus

It was announced by Coccia that in keeping with past practices, the 1956 Alumni Reunion dinner would be held on campus in the gymnasium on Friday evening, May 4.

He pointed out that this would be at the time of the traditional college open house, which would make the visit back to the campus by the alumni even more interesting because of the displays and activities of the various departments of



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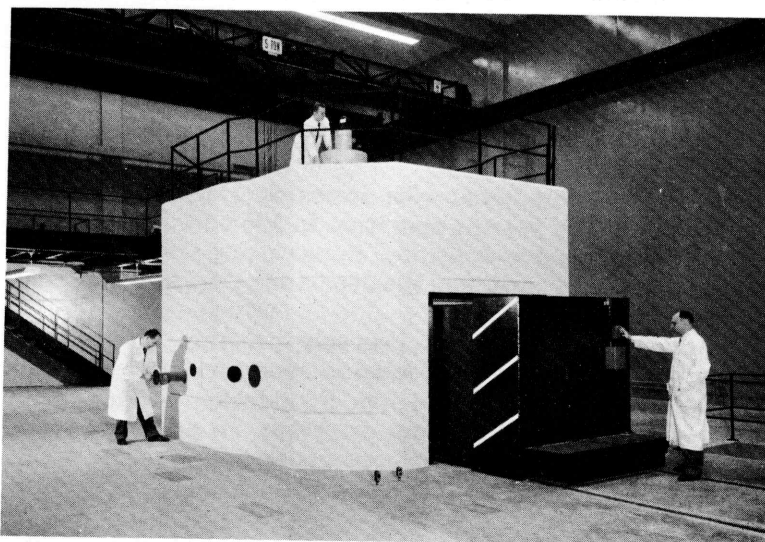


8163

*Source: Annual/President's Report,
1955-56*

its technical inquiry service to include sponsorship by France, which became the twenty-third foreign country for which ARF has conducted work.

The Foundation scored another "first" in June when the nation's first private nuclear reactor designed especially for industrial research went into operation. The reactor, housed in the new Physics and Electrical Engineering Research Building, enables industry for the first time to conduct reactor studies without government restrictions.



The nation's first nuclear reactor for industrial research was constructed at Armour Research Foundation of Illinois Institute of Technology during the year.

Twenty-four industrial companies participating in a special program utilizing the reactor will share in the benefits of an extensive three-year exploratory program, the aim of which is the application of atomic techniques to industrial problems.

Another highlight of the year was the ARF-sponsored National Industrial Research Conference, which brought together about 400 industrial executives for discussion of management-level problems relating to industrial research.

The conference was the occasion for a telegram from

President Eisenhower recognizing the importance of industrial research in national defense and advancing the living standard of the American people, and expressing confidence that the conference would help increase "support from industry in both the discovery and development of new techniques and products."

Locally, Chicago's mayor, Richard J. Daley, focused public attention on the conference by proclaiming the period from April 15 through 21 as "Industrial Research Week in Chicago," and by praising the work of Armour Research Foundation.

The Foundation's 10 research departments were reorganized into nine departments during the year as a result of changing research needs. The affected departments—Heat-Power, Mechanism and Dynamics, and Propulsion and Structures—were reorganized into the Mechanical Engineering Research Department and the Propulsion and Fluid Mechanics Research Department.

The Engineering Economics Research Department completed its first full year of operation in 1955-56. Much attention during the year was devoted to recruiting and indoctrination programs, and outlining the department's future activities and goals.

The Foundation's formal licensing program (other than magnetic recording) has now been in operation for a year and one half. During this period five Foundation developments have resulted in new licensing programs. In addition, there are 11 other Foundation developments now in progress which appear to have good potential for additional licensing programs.

Some of the more important of these under which licensing or contractual agreements have been negotiated are: Solution Ceramics and Flame Ceramics coating developments, fiber metallurgy developments, several new titanium base alloys, a beta ray excitable x-ray source detection system, and an automatic adjusting lens control system.

Foundation leadership in the field of magnetic recording also has been maintained, with research being intensified to the extent of the appointment of a manager of magnetic recording research. The number of licensing agreements in effect at the end of the year was 65.

The Foundation continued to be active in research and services for the benefit of the general public. During the year it provided financial support to the extent of approximately

Illinois Tech, for instance, includes the names of many recognized leaders in the engineering and scientific professions, both in the United States and abroad. Quality more than quantity being the keynote, it would not be improper to say that IIT has served usefully as a professional training ground for technological leaders, and it is our intention to continue to so contribute to the world in the future.

Since the first doctor's degree was conferred by Armour Institute of Technology in 1939, one year before the merger which formed Illinois Tech, 327 Ph.D.'s have been awarded. Of these, 152 were given in the various branches of engineering, and 130 in the group comprising chemistry, mathematics and physics. It is expected that the current rate of some 30 doctoral degree awards per year will be maintained.

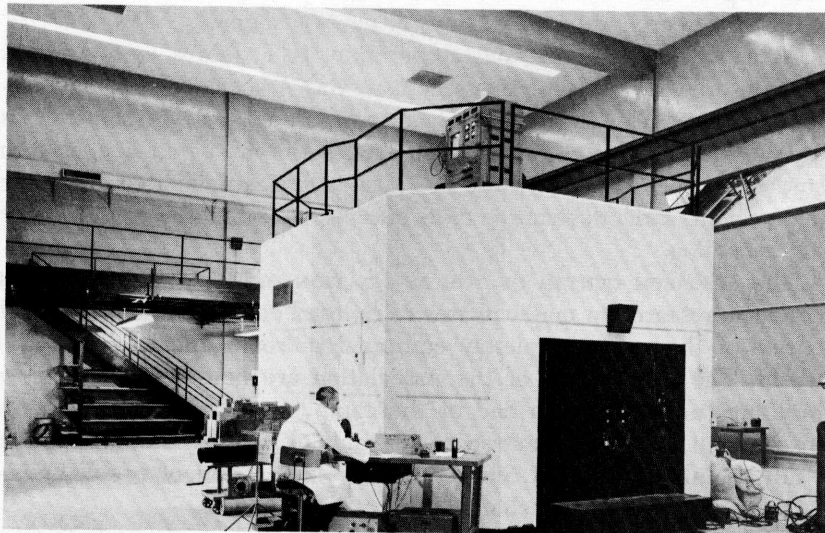
The program of doctoral studies in Mechanical Engineering has been enriched by support under the National Defense Education Act for several three-year fellowships and improved laboratory facilities in the general area of aircraft and missile propulsion. Other support for full-time graduate study came from six National Science Foundation Cooperative Fellowships.



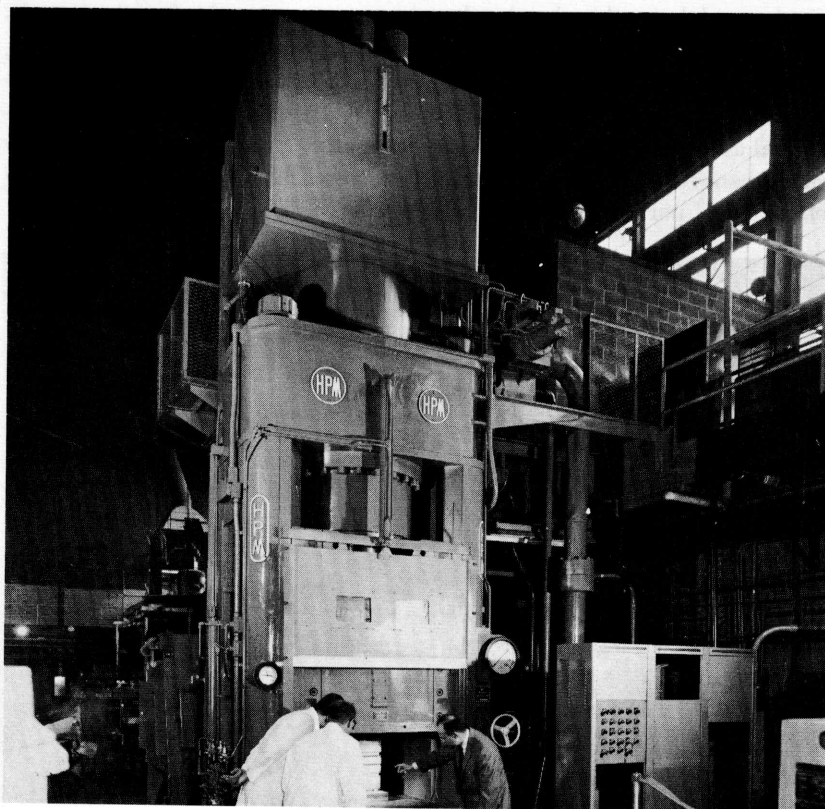
Sub-critical nuclear reactor, located in the Metallurgical and Chemical Engineering Building, serves to acquaint advanced students at Illinois Tech with the principles of deriving power from fissionable materials.



Source: Presidents
Report, 1959-60; 13



ARF Nuclear
Reactor



ARF Extrusion
Press

17

1961-63
Bulletin

diverged. The government certainly took an interest in IIT during the Cold War years, as it fought to maintain dominance over the Soviet Union. The frantic pace of the space race is evidenced in this selection from the 1956 Annual Report of Armour Research Foundation:

The Russians are racing rapidly to the side of the Americans in more and more events and passing them in a few. Just 15 years ago we were sending them Studebaker six-by-sixes and canned sausage with a bay leaf in each can because they could not produce enough machinery and foodstuffs to meet their own needs. At the end of the year they had left us literally on the launching pad, with their moon impact and moon photos.

Apparently, the idea of one day relying on the Russians for our automotive and culinary needs helped urge our engineers and scientists forward. At one time, the cafeteria served approximately 1,400 meals a day—breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Tim Hinko remembers, “Everyone in IITRI, no matter what they did, had security clearances. Even with this clearance, there were rooms that had teletyping equipment, and they had to cover everything over with black tarp before we were allowed in. We had to sign in the exact time we walked into the room, and we had to sign back out when we left. No one was allowed in the room without one of the staff members who had higher security clearance than we did.”

Hinko also recalls seeing an infant cruise missile in the building, which might explain all those rumors about missile silos under the expressway across from

the tower. They didn't exist, but

what was beneath the Dan Ryan was a shooting range, connected

to the tiny building at 3458 S. Federal by a tunnel that ran under the Metra tracks—which would have made for an interesting lunch-hour



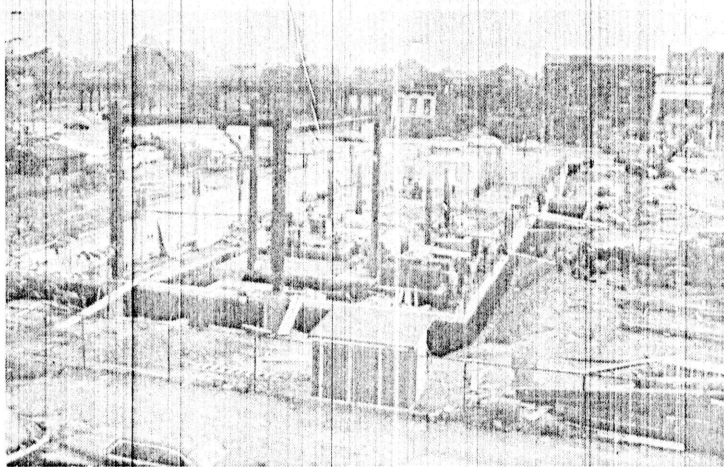
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